

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of :  
Hirofumi FUKUOKA et al. : Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned  
Serial No.: Division of 09/773,677 : Examiner: Not yet assigned  
Filed: Herewith :  
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR THE CONTINUOUS PRODUCTION OF  
SILICON OXIDE POWDER

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows and consider the following remarks:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 4 of this paper.